

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2-6 are currently amended.

Claim 7 is added.

The claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, and for minor editorial purposes. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from any one of claims 2-5.

Support for the amendments to claims 2-6 can be found in claims 1-6, as originally filed.

Support for new claim 7 is found in the specification at page 5, lines 10-11.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 2-7 will be active in this application.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that 2-5 are allowable. Applicants agree that recited references of record do not describe or suggest the cutting inserts of original claims 2-5. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to relate to the allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,008,153 to Kukino et al. is obviated by amendment.

Claim 1 is canceled.

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,008,153 to Kukino et al. is obviated by amendment.

Claim 6 now depends from any one of claims 2-5, which are indicated as allowable.

New claim 7 is novel and unobvious over the cited reference, since it depends from claim 6.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

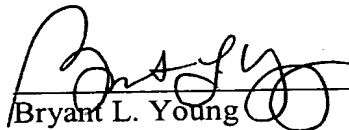
Respectfully submitted,

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